

**Whitehills & District Community Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016**

**Present:** Ross Balharry (Chairman), Robert Mackie, Anne Balharry, Alistair Wiseman, Stuart Ironside, Duncan Leece, Chas Findlay, Bill Bain, Mick Moloney

**Also attending:** Gil Gilbert

**Apologies:** Alan Stewart, Cllr Michael Roy, Cllr John Cox, Mattie Verster,

**Minutes of the meeting 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015**, were approved as correct, proposed by Mick and seconded by Anne

Matters Arising:

1. Doggie Bin now in place on the Boyndie path, and bag dispenser will be added when possible
2. Christmas lights were taken down as per plan, and thanks noted to all involved.
3. Presence of moles at Whitehills Cemetery seems to be resolved
4. Concern at potential overcrowding of Whitehills School due to growing role size: Ross has been in touch with the Headmistress and she is gathering information.

**Police Report:** Nil

**Whitehills/Ladysbridge Safe Walking Route:** Gil shared details of letters and other courses of action he proposed, on behalf of a group of residents living in the Ladysbridge Cottages area. They were not satisfied by Aberdeenshire Council's position on provision of a safe walking route between Ladysbridge Village and Whitehills Village. These residents were well aware of the CC's efforts, over many years, and the huge frustration and anger that had resulted from the brick walls the CC had come against with Aberdeenshire Council senior officers. Residents were also aware of efforts made by elected members, which had failed too. CC members agreed unanimously to work with this group of residents and to assist their efforts.

Duncan confirmed that Alasdair Ramsay was in process with drawing plans for a pathway along part of the route in question, from the War Memorial to the crossroads, and that the CC would then be able to apply for planning consent. We had agreed previously to reserve a sum from the Windfarm Account to facilitate this project.

**Treasurer's Report:** Anne distributed copies of the monthly accounts, detailing expenditure totalling £300.00 since the last meeting, and an income of £46.20. Bank balances stood at £2994.87 in the working current account, and £33939.12 in the gifts/projects account.

It was noted that the Windfarm Community Fund balance stood at £57193.36, which was deemed satisfactory given a potentially very large expenditure that may be required from it this year if the Ladysbridge/Whitehills safe walking route project goes ahead (see above). Since this fund was started in 2007, the CC has been able to support 57 separate projects within the community, paying out a total of £126,000, which all CC members felt was a noteworthy achievement.

**Planning Applications:** Two were discussed and noted, but neither was felt to require further comment.

**Community Council Constitutional Reforms:** A number of CCs, including Whitehills, had put comments back to Aberdeenshire Council re the last draft document that had been circulated, but as yet, no updated version had been received, so there was nothing currently to be discussed.

**Correspondence:**

1. Ross read out an email from Alan describing a number of incidents of inconsiderate parking, particularly in the Reidhaven St and Ogilvie St area. It was agreed that Ross should write to the A/C Roads Dept. to ask them to evaluate possible solutions. Additionally, Stuart asked if the same department could be made aware of requests from residents that gritting of paths round the School area be done earlier in the morning so it had taken effect when children were walking to school.
2. Letters of thanks noted from Whitehills Rowing Club and from Sariah Dickinson
3. Letter received from Police Scotland explaining their new management structure

**AOCB:**

1. Thanks noted for water flowing across the road at The Red Well having been resolved by the landowner/farmer.
2. Public concerns noted from residents re the welfare of horses kept on land near The Red Well. CC members agreed that this was not a matter the CC could act upon, and the proper route for members of the public lodging concerns was via the SSPCA.
3. Bill suggested two picnic benches could be sited at the Low Shore, and it was agreed to investigate.
4. Chas and Bill spoke about the plight of fellow Aberdeenshire residents living in areas inundated by recent flooding, and the fact that an appeal for assistance had been launched. CC members agreed that, although in general funding could not be donated to causes outside the area of our community, terms of our Gift Account made it possible to do so in times of exceptional local happenings. Accordingly, it was agreed to make a contribution to the relief fund, on behalf of Whitehills residents.

**Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 7.00pm**